

PSALM 26 – A Prayer for Divine Scrutiny and Redemption – Vindicate My Integrity!

7/20/19 – Sat. Morn. Prayer - P. Twente, www.ptwente.com 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com

SEARCH ME, OH GOD (CLEANSE ME) - J Edwin Orr – The Cathedrals

*Search me, O God, and know my heart today, Try me, O Savior, know my thoughts, I pray;
See if there be some wicked way in me; Cleanse me from every sin and set me free. (2X)*

*Lord, take my life, and make it wholly Thine; Fill my poor heart with Thy great love divine;
Take all my will, my passion, self and pride; I now surrender, Lord, in me abide. I now surrender, Lord, in me abide.*

PSALM 26 – Introduction

The previous Psalm, (25), David pleaded for the following:

Psa 25:21 Let integrity (no duplicity, no hypocrisy) and uprightness preserve me, For I wait for You.

- Integrity – blamelessness, not sinless, not worthy - So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it. (Rev. 5:4)

Psa 25:22 Redeem Israel, O God, Out of all their troubles!

- Jacob, the children of Israel, all of us!
- A comprehensive prayer, which includes all the faithful and all their trials, remembering them in our prayers.

Now he continues is asking the LORD for vindication, making reference to his integrity and trusting in the LORD. We are not given the timing in David's life of the writing of this Psalm. It appears he was most concerned in being falsely accused. This was especially true during the years of being chased by King Saul, wrongfully accused. In 2 Samuel chapters 3 & 4, there are incidents of the killing of Abner by Joab and the killing of Ishbosheth by Rechab and Baanah, where David went out of his way to strongly disapprove what had been done and to proclaim his innocence.

PSALM 26 – Sanctified Boldness in a Holy Life - Redeem me and be merciful to me. A Psalm of David.

Psa 26:1 Vindicate (to judge, pronounce sentence) me, O LORD, For I have walked in my integrity (blamelessness). I have also trusted in the LORD; I shall not slip. (falter, backslide)

- ***I have walked in my integrity*** – One of great advantages when trouble hits to know that I have been walking with God. Then there is no need to first fix my relationship with Him, so then I can go boldly!
- David had not used any unrighteous means to gain or keep the crown. He had dealt with the noblest principles of honor in all his actions with regard to Saul and his family.
- **Remember Joseph with his brothers in Egypt at first meetings - Gen 42:21-22** *Then they said to one another, "We are truly guilty concerning our brother, for we saw the anguish of his soul when he pleaded with us, and we would not hear; therefore this distress has come upon us." [22] And Reuben answered them, saying, "Did I not speak to you, saying, 'Do not sin against the boy'; and you would not listen? Therefore behold, his blood is now required of us."*
- ***I shall not slip*** – We can't trust in God if we walk in a crooked manner, but straight paths and simple faith bring the believer happily and joyfully to his journey's end.

Psa 26:2 Examine (prove me, test me) me, O LORD, and prove me; Try my mind and my heart.

- Show me what is in my heart! I don't know what my true motive are!
- ***I shall not slip*** – We can't trust in God if we walk in a crooked manner, but straight paths and simple faith bring the believer happily and joyfully to his journey's end.
- Three modes of trial are here challenged. – Trial by touch; trial by smell and trial by fire. All like testing a metal determining content or quality in the furnace.

Psa 26:3 For Your lovingkindness is before my eyes, And I have walked in Your truth.

- Stay in the Word!

Psa 26:4 I have not sat with idolatrous mortals, Nor will I go in with hypocrites.

- Separated from idolatrous individuals and hypocrites!

Psa 26:5 I have hated the assembly of evildoers, And will not sit with the wicked.

- A man who does not hate evil terribly, does not love good heartily. Men, as men, we must always love, for they are our neighbors, and therefore to be loved as ourselves; but evil doers, as such, are traitors to the Great King, and no loyal subject can love traitors. What God hates we must hate.

Psa 26:6 I will wash my hands in innocence; So I will go about Your altar, O LORD,

- Separated into!

- As men find great pleasure in discoursing upon things remarkable and astonishing, so the saints rejoice to tell of the great things which the Lord hath done for them.

Psa 26:7 That I may proclaim with the voice of thanksgiving, And tell of all Your wondrous works.

- Men find great pleasure in sharing things that are remarkable and astonishing, so should we believers rejoice in telling of the great things which the Lord hath done for us!

Psa 26:8 LORD, I have loved the habitation of Your house, And the place where Your glory dwells.

- We are sad children if we do not love our Father's dwelling-place.

Psa 26:9 Do not gather my soul with sinners, Nor my life with bloodthirsty men,

- Lord, don't put me not in the same basket with the best of sinners, much less with the worst of them. The company of sinners is so distasteful to us here, that we cannot endure the thought of being bound up in the same bundle with them to all eternity. Our comfort is in our Lord, who discerns the tares from the wheat, and will find a separate places, both for sinners and believers!

Psa 26:10 In whose hands is a sinister scheme, And whose right hand is full of bribes.

- Bribery should be as detestable to a Christian as road-kill to a dove or garbage to a lamb. Let those whose dirty hands are fond of bribes remember that neither death nor the devil can be bribed to let them escape their well-earned doom.

Psa 26:11 But as for me, I will walk in my integrity; Redeem me and be merciful to me.

- Our integrity is not absolute nor inherent. It is a work of grace in us, marred by human infirmity. Therefore, we must resort to the redeeming blood and the throne of mercy, confessing that though we are saints, strong men, we must still bow as sinners before God.

Psa 26:12 My foot stands in an even place (sure-footed, on level ground in the assembly); In the congregations I will bless the LORD.

- The *even place* upon which our foot stands is the sure, covenant faithfulness, eternal promise and immutable oath of the Lord of Hosts. We have no fear of falling from this solid basis, or of its being removed from under us.
- Let us not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, and when assembled, let us be quick to contribute our portion of thanksgiving. Each believer is a witness to divine faithfulness, being ready with his testimony. Let the slanderers howl outside the door while the children sing within.

SUMMARY:

Judge me, O Lord - decide on my case; the appeal of innocence.

For I have walked in my integrity - freedom from blemish (compare ***Psa 25:21***). His confidence of perseverance results from trust in God's sustaining grace.

I have also trusted in the Lord - Trust in Yahweh, and an upright life, constituted the evidence of piety, or were the constituents of true religion according to the views of the Hebrews, as they are the constituents of true religion everywhere; and the purpose of the psalmist was to ascertain whether his piety was really of that character.

I shall not slip - My feet will be firm, and I shall be secure. And yet the next verse shows that, with all this confidence as to his own character, he felt that there was a "possibility" of his having deceived himself; and, therefore, he pleaded that God would search and test him.

Redeem me and be merciful to me.

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SEARCH ME, OH GOD (CLEANSE ME) - J Edwin Orr – The Kingsmen

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